



General Assembly

February Session, 2012

***Raised Bill No. 5304***

LCO No. 1370

\*01370\_\_\_\_ENV\*

Referred to Committee on Environment

Introduced by:  
(ENV)

***AN ACT CONCERNING CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS PAID IN LIEU  
OF FINES FOR HUNTING AND FISHING VIOLATIONS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General  
Assembly convened:

1       Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2012*) (a) The court may, in the  
2       disposition of any case concerning an alleged violation of any  
3       provision of title 26 of the general statutes concerning hunting or  
4       inland waters fishing, including a dismissal or the imposition of a  
5       sentence, consider the fact that the defendant has made a monetary  
6       contribution to the Turn In Poachers account established under section  
7       2 of this act.

8       (b) In entering a nolle prosequi, the state's attorney, assistant state's  
9       attorney or deputy assistant state's attorney in charge of the case may  
10      consider the fact that the defendant has made a monetary contribution  
11      to the Turn In Poachers account established under section 2 of this act.

12      (c) A monetary contribution made by a defendant to the Turn In  
13      Poachers account as provided in this section may be paid to either the  
14      clerk of the court or the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental  
15      Protection. The clerk or the commissioner shall immediately transmit

16 all contributions received under this section to the State Treasurer for  
17 deposit in the Turn in Poachers account.

18 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2012*) There is established an account  
19 to be known as the "Turn In Poachers account" which shall be a  
20 separate, nonlapsing account within the General Fund. The account  
21 shall contain any moneys required by law to be deposited in the  
22 account and any funds received from any public or private  
23 contributions, gifts, grants, donations, bequests or devises to the  
24 account. Moneys in the account shall be expended by the  
25 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection to provide  
26 grants to the Turn in Poachers nonprofit organization and to staff the  
27 department's toll-free hotline that is used by persons to provide  
28 information on poaching and other fish and game law violations.

29 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2012*) (a) The court may, in the  
30 disposition of any case concerning an alleged violation of any  
31 provision of title 26 of the general statutes concerning marine waters  
32 fishing, including a dismissal or the imposition of a sentence, consider  
33 the fact that the defendant has made a monetary contribution to the  
34 Lobster Restoration account established under section 4 of this act.

35 (b) In entering a nolle prosequi, the state's attorney, assistant state's  
36 attorney or deputy assistant state's attorney in charge of the case may  
37 consider the fact that the defendant has made a monetary contribution  
38 to the Lobster Restoration account established under section 4 of this  
39 act.

40 (c) A monetary contribution made by a defendant to the Lobster  
41 Restoration account as provided in this section may be paid to either  
42 the clerk of the court or the Commissioner of Energy and  
43 Environmental Protection. The clerk or the commissioner shall  
44 immediately transmit all contributions received under this section to  
45 the State Treasurer for deposit in the Lobster Restoration account.

46 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2012*) There is established an account

47 to be known as the "Lobster Restoration account" which shall be a  
48 separate, nonlapsing account within the General Fund. The account  
49 shall contain any moneys required by law to be deposited in the  
50 account and any funds received from any public or private  
51 contributions, gifts, grants, donations, bequests or devises to the  
52 account. Moneys in the account shall be expended by the  
53 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection for the  
54 purposes of the lobster restoration program established under section  
55 26-157d of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2012</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2012</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2012</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2012</i>	New section

***Statement of Purpose:***

To provide funding for the Turn In Poachers program and the lobster restoration program.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*